

It is obvious that the first deregulation of broadcast station ownership has almost destroyed diversified and unbiased sources of information/entertainment via radio and television. I would also say that online communication is going in the same direction as fast as mergers and takeovers can eat up internet infrastructure. It is my belief that the new docket (02-277) will not only continue this trend but completely eliminate any unbiased source of information for the American public. Television is nothing more than a "reality" show with formats that have nothing to do with reality and radio stations are clones of each other that play the same music across the entire country. I can't tell if I am in Arizona or Maine just by listening to radio or watching TV anymore. The news is geared more on sensationalism and ratings than on truthful reporting and accurate documentation of events. My choices to view quality shows or hear a wide variety of music, through corporate media, is very limited. If corporations/large companies are limiting the choices of music and entertainment the American public can see and/or hear I can only conclude that the major players are also censoring other forms of information, such as political and financial issues, which brings me to my next point.

Mass media has the responsibility of offering the public multiple sources of diversified AND accurate information. A viewer/listener should be able to find a counterpoint to any issue via the same media source they gained the original information from. Having the media outlets owned by a few large entities will eliminate this opportunity. The FCC as a regulator and government body, which had been created to serve the American public and not Corporate America, has the responsibility to make sure the American population is well served. This docket is not a device that is going to serve the American public at all. This docket is strictly geared to allow Corporate America to greedily gain market share and direct the views of the American public by a few biased individuals who care more about their bottom line than the well being of Americans.

This docket should not be rushed through the system, as chairman Michael Powell is attempting to do, and should be reviewed and dissected by representatives that are willing to listen to public opinion. It is my view that this docket is a huge mistake and will only continue a very negative trend and will prove to be advantageous to a few individuals while restricting the rights and voices of the masses. If this new docket goes through I may not even know that issues, like the one I am responding to, even exist.

Thank you for your time and I urge you to look at the damage previous deregulation caused and realize that this new docket will only decrease the integrity of media, not increase it.

Sincerely,

Phil Hammon